

action and founded The Matty Fund. They didn't want other families facing similar challenges to go without help, and they dedicated themselves to raising awareness, providing family resources and improving the lives of children and families living with Epilepsy.

I'm so proud of the work that the Matty Fund does in Rhode Island, and I encourage everyone to take a moment and reflect on what they can do to support Epilepsy awareness, not just during November, but all year long.

DANA RINDERKNECHT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dana Rinderknecht for receiving the West Chamber's 2015 Celebrate Women Award. This award celebrates local women leaders with drive, perseverance and service to their community.

Dana began her career with Coors Brewing Company and then became involved with ColoradoGives.org at Community First Foundation where she helped refine the website to make it accessible, affordable and transparent. She helped take the organization from a small Denver-area organization serving 100 nonprofits to a nationally-recognized program used by more than 1,700 organizations across the state. She also helped start Colorado Gives Day to increase philanthropy across the state. Since its inception, Colorado Gives Day—in combination with ColoradoGives—has raised more than \$117 million for Colorado nonprofits.

Dana's energy and sense of humor she brings to her work helps foster a positive and creative environment. Her encouragement of others and her contribution to the nonprofit community has helped impact the lives of many.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dana Rinderknecht for receiving the 2015 Celebrate Women Award. Thank you for your leadership and service to the community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM ELECTION REFORM ACT OF 2015

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to amend the Organic Act of Guam to prohibit salary changes for the Governor of Guam, the Lieutenant Governor of Guam, and Senators of the Guam Legislature until after a general election of the Legislature has passed. My bill also removes the federally mandated five-year residency requirement for individuals to run for governor, lieutenant governor, and senator of the Guam Legislature, and gives the authority to set this requirement to local policymakers and the people of Guam.

The Organic Act of Guam establishes the framework of the Government of Guam and,

among others, provides for qualifications and manner of elections of the Governor of Guam, the Lieutenant Governor of Guam and members of the Guam Legislature. Currently the Organic Act is silent on provisions regarding changes in salary for the Governor, Lt. Governor, or local Guam Legislature and changes can be made and implemented at any time simply by changing local law. Over the past several months, local policymakers and the people of Guam have debated pay increases that were proposed and instituted shortly after last year's general election. While I believe that these issues are up to local policymakers, and ultimately the people of Guam to decide, the Organic Act should provide safeguards regarding salaries for these elected officials that will prevent divisiveness in our community. The bill that I am introducing today would prevent the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Senators from increasing their salaries until after an intervening election of the Legislature has occurred. This is similar to the 27th Amendment to the Constitution that prohibits Members of Congress from increasing their pay until after an intervening election, and it is consistent with a request made by the Guam Legislature for me to introduce an amendment to the Organic Act for this purpose.

Additionally, the bill I am introducing will make it easier for individuals to participate in Guam elections by removing the federally-mandated five-year residency requirement for individuals to run for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Senator, and placing this authority with local Guam law. I believe that we should provide for greater opportunities to participate in government, and that the qualifications for local elected offices should be vested in the laws of Guam. Placing a federal mandate on the qualifications for Guam's Governor, Lt. Governor, and Senators ignores Guam's political maturity and is contrary to the ideals of our representative democracy. These decisions should be made by local policymakers and the people of Guam, not the U.S. Congress. The bill also puts Guam on equal footing with most of America, where state laws, not federal mandates, govern who can run for local elected offices.

This bill is a step towards improving accountability for elected officials on Guam and encourages more participation in our government. The bill is also consistent with public opinion in Guam and the views expressed by the Guam Legislature. I encourage its adoption and urge my colleague to pass this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote number 637 on November 18, 2015 due to a previously scheduled appointment.

I would like to reflect that on roll call vote number 637 I would have voted NO.

REMEMBERING THE HISTORIC MEETING BETWEEN TAIWAN AND CHINA PRESIDENTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as someone, who since 1978 has followed with great interest the tinder box of South East Asia, the recent meeting between Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou and China's President Xi Jinping is an historic event that I did not think I would see in my lifetime.

On November 7 of this year, Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou and China's President Xi Jinping met in Singapore. The two leaders shook hands, gave speeches and discussed cross-Strait relations.

Before Taiwan's President Ma took office in 2008, the relationship between Taiwan and China was severely strained. The conflict over Pacific Island ownership and dispute over many other issues portends problems that could threaten peace in the region.

We greatly appreciate President Ma's initiative and leadership in pursuing this meeting and reducing tension along the Taiwan Strait.

With the recent tragedy in Paris and the increased violence in the Middle East, it is so vital that there is peace along the Taiwan Strait.

We look forward to seeing even greater peace and stability in the region as a result of this historic meeting between these two Presidents and view it as a first step on a long road.

DR. MARGIE BALL-COOK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Margie Ball-Cook for receiving the West Chamber's 2015 Celebrate Women Award. This award celebrates local women leaders with drive, perseverance and service to their community.

Born in Beaumont, Texas, Dr. Ball-Cook has dedicated her life to helping others and the health care industry. She graduated as valedictorian of her high school class and went on to receive her Doctorate in Psychology from the University of Denver. Since then, she has helped establish nursing schools in both Colorado and Africa.

Currently, Dr. Ball-Cook heads the Global Health Commission of the National Black Nurses Association and was one of the founding members of Colorado Council of Black Nurses (CCBN). She has mentored and advised hundreds of students interested in medical and health careers toward their career goals, including those with low means who wish to pursue a profession in medicine.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dr. Margie Ball-Cook for receiving the 2015 Celebrate Women Award. Thank you for your leadership and service to the community.